

Vessel Discharge Stakeholders Meeting

Department of Human Services
Conference Room 1B
Portland ME
July 24, 2003
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Meeting Summary

Introductions - Name and affiliation

Overall objective – Hetty Richardson

The DEP will develop a plan, with the assistance of the stakeholder group, for prohibiting or regulating the discharge of sewage and gray water from vessels into the coastal waters of the State. The Resolve also allows for other issues to be considered.

The overview of this objective brought out some questions. Joe Payne inquired if the group was to include all commercial vessels or only cruise ships in their discussion. Herb Adams noted that he felt that cruise ships must be included. Judy Harris and Ken Albee both felt that all commercial vessels should be included. Michael Crye asked if the group would be trying to designate no discharge zones per the Clean Water Act.

Overview of Steps and Meeting Agenda – Hetty Richardson

Hetty reviewed the steps to be taken throughout this stakeholder process, as well as the agenda for this meeting.

Working agreements – David Sanderson

David discussed the following working agreements/guidelines that are proposed to make the stakeholder meeting process proceed smoothly and efficiently:

- Balance advocacy with inquiry
- Consensus is not required
- Open discussion
- Frequent check-ins with the group
- Off-line conversations are fine
- One person speaks at a time

Presentation on Legal Framework – Hetty Richardson

Hetty gave a brief presentation reviewing International, Federal and State laws and regulations presently governing Vessel Discharges. (See slide presentation for more information.)

Presentation on Environmental Impacts – Pam Parker

Pam gave a brief presentation reviewing the environmental impacts (and possible impacts) from commercial vessels. (See slide presentation for more information.)

Looking ahead to 2010 – groups

The group was broken into two smaller working groups and asked to come up with a vision for 2010. What conditions and qualities do you truly want to see in 2010?

The groups worked on this project for approximately ½ hour and then the entire group reconvened and each of the smaller groups gave an overview of what their vision was for the State of Maine in 2010.

Group A – This group was very general in what that had for a vision.

- Diverse ports
- Diverse uses
- Traditional uses
- Access
- Ecosystems & Environment – Maintained & Improved

Group B – This group was more specific in their vision.

State of Economics

- More stable year-round economy
- More commercial activity
- A continued balance between regulatory enforcement & business
- Better enforcement policies
- Incentives for improvement
- A weighted balance between commerce and the environment
- Growth-but not at the expense of the environment

Environment

- Improved environment
- Continuous improvement
- Cleaner waters
- Continued natural beauty
- Maine set a precedent for the state of the environment

General

- Maintain high standards – set precedents but don't drive away business
- Win-win situations
- Incentives for good behavior
- We invest in infrastructure to make business easier
- Facilities available for pump-out
- More dispersed port areas
- Clusters of ports – protect open waters
- We agree on what it means to protect the environment
- Trust

This exercise brought out more questions. Why was the group asked to do this exercise? What does this have to do with the task at hand? The group was asked to participate in this exercise in the hopes that there may be some common ground upon which to build. Some people felt as

though they had to include an increase in commercial activity in their vision for 2010 even though that may not be something that they would want for 2010.

Meeting reflections/Questions & Comments

Michael Crye pointed out that cruise ships that are members of the ICCL have guidelines/policies that they do not discharge within 3 miles of the coast. Ken Albee stated that he has not seen an overboard discharge open within the 3-mile limit in over 3 years. This prompted Carla Morin to ask, what is the problem? Michael indicated that there have been violations in the past (intentional and accidental) and that there will likely be more violations in the future. He also indicated that ICCL members would like to be allowed to discharge within 3 miles of the coast if the ship has an advanced wastewater treatment system.

Environmental Priorities

Each participant was asked to identify his/her top three environmental priorities from a list that included blackwater, graywater, oil, air, invasive species and hazardous waste. The majority of the group indicated that would prefer not to vote, as they did not feel as if they had enough information at this time to make an informed decision.

Next Meeting

For the next meeting the group asked that DEP have a list of areas identified as problems in Maine.

Herb Adams indicated that a special session of the Legislature will be held on August 20, 21 and 22 and asked that the next meeting of this stakeholders group not be scheduled on any of those days.

Hetty will send an e-mail to participants with a range of dates for the next meeting and ask each person to indicate when he/she will be available. A meeting date and place (likely in Bar Harbor) will be announced as soon as possible.